

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission**

ITEM

9

DECISION

TOPIC

**Agreement with Iowa State University – Lake Restoration Diagnostic
And Feasibility Studies**

Approval is requested for the Department of Natural Resources Department to enter into an agreement for two lake restoration diagnostic and feasibility studies with Iowa State University. The lake systems are Easter Lake (Polk County) and the Lower Chain of the Iowa Great Lakes (Dickinson County) including Upper Gar Lake, Minnewashta Lake, and Lower Gar Lake. These studies are a required component of the process outlined in the “Lake Restoration Plan and Report” that must be submitted to the State of Iowa Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Infrastructure, and Capitals and the Legislative Services Agency prior to receiving lake restoration funding. The purposed work will draw heavily on the existing “Iowa Lakes Valuation Project,” funded jointly by Iowa DNR and U.S. EPA, which has just completed its four year data collection effort and the extensive five-year lake database collected by Dr. Downing with Iowa DNR funding that includes water chemistry, biological analysis, and watershed data for 129 of Iowa’s principle recreation lakes. Additional information will also be utilized from the Iowa DNR 319 and TMDL programs and past lake diagnostic and feasibility studies prepared by ISU. These projects are being funded through the Endowment for Iowa’s Health Account as part of the Lake Water Quality Improvement DNR’s FY 2007 Infrastructure and Capitals Plan. The DNR’s financial obligation is \$235,488 with final reports provided to the DNR by November 1, 2008. Polk County will also contribute an additional \$21,746 (25%) to the Easter Lake study.

We recommend that the Department enter into an agreement with Iowa State University for these research projects.

Kenneth Herring
Division Administrator
Conservation and Recreation Division

March 8, 2007